



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOOK 2025

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY  
CHURCH OF CANADA



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# Welcome to Assembly

## 2025 Assembly Book

The call to assemble, heralded by the sound of trumpets, resonated throughout the Israelite camp (Numbers 10:2). The people of God assembled to worship, make sacrifices, receive guidance, listen to the Scriptures, read, and even accept correction. Under persecution, the early church assembled in homes to disciple one another and listen to the Spirit. When they assembled, one brought a song, another a word, another special revelation God had given; one spoke in tongues while another interpreted. The assembly was where all were strengthened (1 Corinthians 14:26). Assembling is not just an “Ikea” word; it is what the Body of Christ does to grow in grace and hear from God and each other.

The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada has been assembling for over a century – initially on farms, in tents and at meeting houses. Over time, we have assembled at hotels and churches. Through the benefits of technology and the interruption of a pandemic, we now assemble in 2025 both in-person and online. We welcome you to our sacred Assembly. We are grateful that a representative group of us can gather in Calgary. We thank our hosts, Centre Street Church at the Bearspaw Campus. We implore all our member church boards to gather around a screen and enjoy each other’s encouragement while participating in the Assembly.

The theme of our Assembly is multiplication. Our shared vision is to make disciples who make disciples, invest in leaders who develop other leaders and encourage churches and disciple-makers to multiply new churches and communities of followers of Jesus on mission to the world. Our short-hand math looks like this:  $d \times d$  (disciples multiplying disciples),  $l \times l$  (leaders multiplying leaders) and  $c \times c$  (churches multiplying churches), all to advance the gospel and His grace – His kingdom and blessing to our nation and all nations. While the world is focused on division and subtraction, followers of Jesus must become multipliers.

This year, we have intentionally separated our celebration from our business activities. Our Assembly will take place from the evening of Thursday, May 1st, until Friday evening, May 2nd. On Saturday morning, May 3rd, those attending in person will have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant workshops. Then, on Saturday afternoon at 1pm Mountain Time, we will hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This business meeting will be available both in-person and online for all members and delegates. Please note that there is a separate registration for the AGM – no cost is involved, but it is necessary to establish our voting system.

Thank you for assembling with us. We anticipate His presence, His promise, His marching orders.

Rev. John Cressman  
EMCC President



// MAY 1-3 2025

# ASSEMBLY AGENDA

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## Thursday, May 1st

- 6:00pm Registration opens  
7:00pm Opening Session - **And Multiply**  
Welcome & Worship  
Celebration Service  
**President's Keynote: John Cressman**  
9:00pm Gathering & Refreshments

## Friday, May 2nd

- 8:30am Registration opens  
9:00am Morning Session - **Multiplying Disciples**  
Opening Worship  
**Jeremiah Capule's Keynote: Embracing the Multiplication Mindset**  
10:15am Refreshment Break  
10:45am Networking  
12:00pm **Lunch (onsite)**  
1:00pm Afternoon Session - **Leaders Multiplying Leaders**  
**Guest Panel Presenters: VP Singh, Martin Nieuwets, Sheryl Grunwald**  
2:45pm Refreshment Break  
3:15pm Initiatives  
3:45pm Networking  
5:00pm **Dinner (onsite)**  
7:00pm Evening Session - **Dream Again**  
Welcome & Worship  
World Partners & Lausanne  
**Dream Again: John Cressman**



## Saturday, May 3rd

8:30am Registration

9:00am **Workshops:**

- Prayer for a Generation: Creating Space for Young People in Gatherings – Gen Epp
- Resonant Conversations: Creating Space for Harmony & Understanding – Gavin Wark and Ruth Esau
- Habits of a Disciple-maker: One Who Multiplies Disciples – Claran Martin and Lynn Dietz
- Gospel Conversations Training: Equipping Your Church to Engage the Lost – Jeremy Doorten
- Seat at the (Board) Table: Everyone Taking Their Place – John Cressman

10:15am Refreshment Break

10:45am **Workshops:**

- Seasons of Multiplication: Building a Future Together with Young People – Gen Epp
- Resonant Conversations: Creating Space for Harmony & Understanding – Gavin Wark and Ruth Esau
- Better Together: A Panel Discussion on the Benefits & Challenges of Collaborative Ministry – Krista Bennett and Rosemary Flaaten
- Disabusing the Church: An Introduction to the Investigation & Prevention of Abuse in the Local Church – Randal Rauser
- Multiplying a Leadership Culture – Jeff Knott and Brian Archer

12:00pm **Lunch (onsite)**

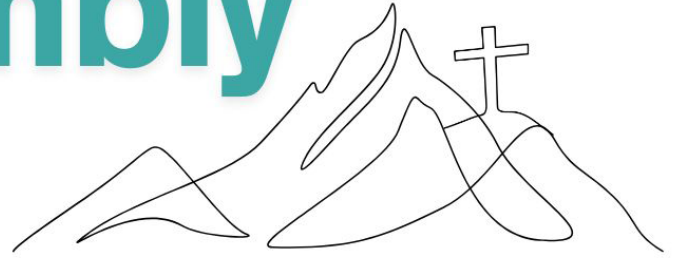
12:30pm Registration for AGM

1:00pm **EMCC AGM**

4:00pm Commissioning, closing worship & prayer



# Pre Assembly Tours



Historic EMCC Alberta Churches

## *EMCC Heritage Tour*

### 1. EMCC Heritage Tour

Embedded in the brick and mortar of our historic EMCC Alberta churches is the remarkable evidence of faithful men and women who responded to the call of God to follow Jesus on mission, bringing the hope of the Gospel to rural settlements in Alberta.

You are invited to join other EMCC leaders for an enjoyable outing of fellowship as we revisit some of the historical sites and hear powerful stories of how God has produced a harvest of disciples and leaders which have expanded over several generations through the faithfulness of those who were called to rural Alberta.

**Date:** Thursday, May 1st

**Time:** 9:30am - 4:00pm

**Meeting place:** Acclaim Hotel Lobby, 123 Freeport Blvd NE, Calgary, AB T3N 0A3

Cost: no cost to sign up, lunch and small donation toward gas will be at your own expense.

**Register here:** <https://www.emcc.ca/general-assembly-2025/pre-assembly-tours/>



## 2. Rocky Mountain Tour

The Canadian Rockies, home to world renowned majestic mountains, incredible lakes, and vibrant townsites, such as Banff, Canmore, & Lake Louise, is an outstanding National Park just west of Calgary that appeals to visitors wanting to explore the beauty of God's creation and to those who seek adventure.

You are invited to join other EMCC leaders for an enjoyable day trip of adventure and fellowship in the Rockies. If you are interested in any of these tour options, **please sign up via the link below to indicate interest** and choose your adventure. Specific locations may vary slightly depending on weather conditions. **You will receive an email one week prior to Assembly to finalize details.**

**Option A: Canmore Townsite & Policeman's Creek Boardwalk Trail** - enjoy a walk down the shops on Old Canmore Road & a 4km easy walk around <https://www.theshopsofcanmore.com/>  
<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/canada/alberta/policemans-creek-boardwalk-trail>

**Option B: Johnston's Canyon** a hiking adventure with lower and upper falls, and suspended catwalks for all levels, 1-2 hours (cost \$10 if renting cleats)  
<https://www.banfflakelouise.com/experiences/johnston-canyon> or  
Tunnel Mountain a moderate hike that overlooks the Banff Townsite, 1-3 hours,  
<https://www.banfflakelouise.com/experiences/tunnel-mountain-summit-trail>

**Option C: Banff Gondola** - enjoy the summit of summit of Sulphur Mountain (\$60-80)  
<https://www.banffjaspercollection.com/attractions/banff-gondola/>

**Date: Thursday, May 1st**

**Time: 8:30am - 4:00pm**

**Meeting place:** Sheraton Hotel Lobby, 8220 Bowridge Cres NW, Calgary, AB

**Cost:** no cost to sign up, lunch and small donation toward gas will be at your own expense.

**Register here:** <https://www.emcc.ca/general-assembly-2025/pre-assembly-tours/>

# Assembly Opening Session 1:



Thursday, May 1st, 7:00pm  
CSC Bearspaw Campus, Calgary, AB

Opening Worship & Prayer: Michael Benjamin & Team, Yeshe Mandli Church, Calgary

## Newly Credentialed Ministers

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025

## Provisionally Licensed Ministers

Lena Blain	Cochrane, Alberta
Timothy Gibb	Mount Brydges, Ontario
Jigs Gonzales	Calgary, Alberta
Thomas Maier	Cremona, Alberta
Rajiv Masih	Edmonton, Alberta
Jeff McCrea	Wellesley, Ontario
Melanie Nelson	Calgary, Alberta
Tomas Ruhland	Calgary, Alberta
Timothy Sivagnanam	Beaumont, Alberta
Brian Smith	Mitchell, Ontario
Ron Stone	Calgary, Alberta
Sid Thomas	Kelowna, British Columbia
Kyle Upton	Kitchener, Ontario
Paul Vickers	Didsbury, Alberta

## Licensed Ministers

Tony Baker	Three Hills, Alberta
Rob Campbell	Blyth, Ontario
Jayne Duldner	St Catharines, Ontario
Justin Fox	Calgary, Alberta
Melanna Heebner	Calgary, Alberta
Jeremy Hoover	Sarnia, Ontario
Lawrence Irwin	Calgary, Alberta
Jessi Kurtz	Calgary, Alberta
Robbie Oleniuk	Owen Sound, Ontario
Barry Oram	Red Deer County, Alberta
Salim Pani	Calgary, Alberta



Josh Sissons	Red Deer, Alberta
Mike Stanley	Goderich, Ontario
Don Timmons	Strasbourg, Saskatchewan
Eli van de Laar	Swift Current, Saskatchewan
Moses Yu	Calgary, Alberta

## Ordained Ministers

Catlin Allen	Calgary, Alberta
Krista Bennett	Chilliwack, British Columbia
Chardon Canonayon	Surrey, British Columbia
Aaron Dalman	West Kelowna, British Columbia
Alisha Durksen	Medicine Hat, Alberta
James Ferber	Listowel, Ontario
Rob Ford	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Arleen Gomez	North York, Ontario
Edith Green	Calgary, Alberta
Jared Harrison	Crossfield, Alberta
Cam Hudson	Edmonton, Alberta
William Knelsen	Bluffton, Alberta
Shiloh Nott	Three Hills, Alberta
Mike Swalm	Calgary, Alberta
Becky Timmons	Calgary, Alberta
Vince Vanderveen	Chestermere, Alberta
Nathan Weber	Cambridge, Ontario

## Newly Retired Ministers

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025

Minister	Year Entered Ministry	Retirement Date	Location
Shane Andrus	1991	2024-01-15	Medicine Hat, Alberta
Clinton Cairns	2006	2023-12-08	Beaver County, Alberta
Nick Cardases	1992	2023-11-28	Kitchener, Ontario
Mark Chamberlin	2010	2024-03-26	Alcove, Quebec
Ruth Ann Elliott	1975	2024-03-31	Kitchener, Ontario
Gordon Keith Elliott	1975	2024-03-31	Kitchener, Ontario
Chris Gatten	1984	2025-01-24	Stratford, Ontario

Tim Hayes	1995	2024-02-22	Sorrento, British Columbia
Rick Heavenor	1990	2023-06-05	Beaumont, Alberta
Dianne Kuglin	2005	2023-11-30	Innisfail, Alberta
Mike Leist	1976	2024-02-16	Redcliff, Alberta
Binder Mahil	2008	2025-01-15	Abbotsford, British Columbia
Marilyn McIlroy	1983	2024-06-30	Elmira, Ontario
Morris McLean	1979	2023-07-01	Cambridge, Ontario
Conrad Neudorf	1986	2023-06-30	Surrey, British Columbia
Olu Peters	1978	2023-10-19	Kitchener, Ontario
Jordan Polson	2017	2024-07-11	Red Deer, Alberta
Hugh Rutledge	1981	2024-06-30	Tavistock, Ontario
Stan Starkey	1997	2023-06-01	Kitchener, Ontario
Don Timmons	2005	2024-12-12	Strasbourg, Saskatchewan
Andre Wedseltoft	1999	2023-07-31	Sundridge, Ontario
Norma Wilson	2003	2025-03-31	Ottawa, Ontario
David Wood	1990	2023-06-06	Fort McMurray, Alberta

## Recent Deaths

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025

## Credentialed Ministers

Rev. Mark Bolender	January 21, 1949 - May 19, 2023
Rev. Steve Budd	April 19, 1947 - December 9, 2024
Rev. Ron Byers	1933 - July 25, 2023
Rev. Jim Carne	July 13, 1930 - October 8, 2024
Rev. Paul Evans	November 1, 1955 - June 12, 2024
Rev. Glenn Fretz	1945 - September 14, 2023
Rev. Lloyd Fretz	October 24, 1938 - April 26, 2024
Rev. Roger Gast	October 6, 1940 - February 14, 2025
Pastor Ellen Krahn	March 2, 1950 - April 18, 2023
Rev. Ted Losch	April 29, 1930 - September 17, 2023
Rev. Jim McKinstry	February 28, 1928 - April 16, 2023
Rev. Brandon (Brad) Olson	February 3, 1942 – March 12, 2025
Rev. Roy Stuart	March 1932 - March 17, 2024
Rev. Glen Whitmore	January 30, 1946 - April 15, 2024

## Spouses of EMCC Credentialed Ministers

Ruth Gast	September 7, 2024
Della Gingrich	January 25, 2024
Phyllis Sherick	January 13, 2025
Carolyn Shirton	September 16, 2024

## Keynote Address: John Cressman, EMCC President

**And Multiply:** God said to the first household, “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28). Jesus says to His household, “Bear much fruit” (John 15:8) and “multiply disciples” (Matthew 28:20). The early church multiplied (Acts 6:1). God is working in miraculous, multiplicative, and transformative ways in other parts of the world; can He do it here? Will He do it through me, through us?



Have we lost our multiplication reflex? We must consider what changes in our thinking and actions need to happen to see greater levels of fruitfulness and multiplication. The Lord of the harvest has called us into a season of prayer, anticipating an abundant harvest. Will we be the answer to our own prayers and multiply disciples, leaders, and churches to the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom? The answer for EMCC is a resounding YES!

### Multiplication Initiatives

M<sup>3</sup> represents our collective intention to multiply disciples, leaders and churches. In this case, more is better because it means more transformations, more potential released and more churches and communities of followers of Jesus on mission to the world.

Multiplication flows out of prayer to the Lord of the Harvest. Our current Season of Prayer (March 21-April 30) calls our EMCC family to concerted prayer. For details and resources, visit our Season of Prayer webpage: [emcc.ca/season-of-prayer/](https://emcc.ca/season-of-prayer/).

This initiative invites us to transform our minds from focusing on division, subtraction, and even addition, but instead focus on multiplication. It calls us to move beyond survival and maintenance – from “hold on to” mode to dream mode. At Assembly 2025, we will ask the Spirit of God to help us dream again. Disciples, leaders and churches are the fruit of people obediently pursuing a dream from God to start something and invest in someone.

To stimulate our multiplication reflex, we have opened a Multiplication Grant Fund that will allow us to bless new initiatives – to water new seeds. We seek a Multiplication Initiative Coordinator to help stimulate and resource our dreams and multiplication efforts. We will learn from others who have multiplication mindsets and actions. We know there is much to learn from our global partners.

# Session 2: Friday, May 2, 2025

## 9:00am



### Multiply Disciples

#### **Keynote Address: Jeremiah Capule, Embracing the Multiplication Mindset**

Adopting Jesus' multiplication mindset is essential to fulfilling the Great Commission. In this session, we will explore why multiplying disciples is not just a strategy for Kingdom growth – it is the very model Jesus gave us. His life is our blueprint. What does this look like in the Canadian context? What will it take for us to make this shift? And what will it cost us to fully align with Jesus in His powerful disciple-making movement that transforms nations?



**Jeremiah Capule** serves as the Strategy Coordinator for the Jonathan Initiative of the Underground Network in Alberta. Their mission is to promote Jesus-style disciple-making and produce healthy disciples that multiply. Occasionally, he serves as a church planter Assessor with the SEND Network Canada. He is passionate in assisting churches and fellow leaders and kingdom workers by helping them develop and implement an effective training strategy for their context.

As a scuba diving instructor, Jeremiah has trained and certified hundreds of recreational and professional divers. This skill set allowed him not only to do mission work in some remote places, but also learn and apply effective training principles in disciple-making.

Together with his wife Erika, he leads a global network of disciple-makers in the Philippines, Canada, USA, Japan and China. They are blessed with 2 energetic daughters Yesha and Yana.



## Session 3: Friday, May 2, 2025 1:00pm



### MULTIPLYING LEADERS

**Facilitators: Brian Archer and Scott Clubine**

#### Panel Guests:



**Martin Nieuwets** is currently Pastor of Family Life and also serves on the Executive Leadership Team at Bethany Community Church in St. Catharines, ON. He helps direct Accelerate College, a Bethany initiative to help raise up the next generation of Canadian pastors and church leaders. In his spare time, he volunteers with the EMCC Next Gen Team. He's been married for almost 32 years, has 5 children, 2 grandchildren, and is an avid supporter of Liverpool FC.

**Sheryl Grunwald** is a full-time missionary, serving as the Global Children's Ministry Training Director with ACTION International Ministries. Her ministry focuses on equipping children's workers, leaders, and trainers to reach, disciple and empower the next generation. Her mission activity has taken her to 33 nations over the past 20 years, giving her broad cultural experiences. A former children's pastor at churches in Edmonton and Calgary, she now focuses on mentoring leaders in several nations.



**Rev. Dr. VP Singh** was born and brought up in India. Before coming to Canada in 1997, he lived and travelled to South Korea, China and Hong Kong. He is a trained counsellor and minister of Religion. VP is instrumental in preventing family violence through pastoral and spiritual counselling. During his pastoral services of 38 years many families in the South Asian community have been saved.

## **Growing Young Initiative**

This initiative aims to help pastors and church leadership teams create lasting culture changes in their congregations that help foster meaningful engagement with the next generation (under 25).

This two-year initiative leverages a partnership with Fuller Youth Institute to provide training and resources to churches for growing young. This initiative does not diminish our need to disciple and support our members of all ages. In our work with emerging generations, those under 25 are leaving the church in alarming numbers. Hiring a youth pastor is not enough. Pastors are overwhelmed by the needs of their existing members and often feel ill-equipped to make the necessary cultural shifts to engage younger generations effectively. This is not just a pastor issue but a whole church issue. Few individuals under 25 are being invited, stepping into, or being mentored into leadership positions within the church. As a denomination focused on the future, our priority must be to engage with younger generations to preserve and grow the legacy of our faith. Despite challenging times, there is an opportunity and a growing desire from the next generation to know more about Jesus and be a vital part of the church.

To grow younger, we have developed a two-year strategy to work with 10 pilot EMCC churches, raising trainers to impact more churches. We desire to include those under 25 in our conversations, plans, and equipping. We have appointed a Growing Young Initiative Coordinator, Genevieve Epp, who is forming a volunteer team to lead the way and by example. At Assembly 2025, we will launch a Growing Young survey to gather baseline data on how we currently engage young people under 25.

## **Resonant Conversations Initiative**

Ultimately, every community has to learn how to talk together. We are created as conversational beings created to live most fully in community in conversation. Conversation can be difficult amid diverse opinions and convictions. Fight. Flight. Check out. Lean in. By learning to talk together, be present to one another, be self-aware of our reactions and follow the guidance of Christ's presence with us in the Holy Spirit, we mature into the full stature of Christ (Eph 4:13) and witness our world.

Within our denominational family, we hold differing convictions on many matters. Differences often lead to division, but they don't have to. Over our history, we can point to conversations that became heated and led to hurt rather than mutual understanding and unity of purpose and mission while respecting differences. We dream of being a family that talks well together – that doesn't jump from distrust to defense without first

offering our ears, hearts, minds and intent to understand – that has resonant conversations. A resonant conversation is one where there is resonance – a harmony of mutual respect, mutual awareness and mutual learning.

This two-year initiative aims to foster a learner-centered culture within our denomination, enabling us to engage in constructive conversations. The goal is to learn how to understand, collaborate with, minister to, and grow from those with differing convictions. (Note: There is no agenda to change our Articles of Faith; instead, the goal is to learn how to talk better together.)

Our Conversation Facilitation Team, established in 2022, has created an interactive four-part learning cohort experience to enhance our awareness of how we communicate in conversations. A pilot cohort was conducted in 2024, with participants reporting notable growth in self-awareness and understanding. In 2025, we will offer three additional cohorts. The goal is to train individuals who will, in turn, provide this essential training annually, enabling all our credential holders and church leaders to engage in more effective conversations during our denominational meetings and discussions with members and individuals from our congregations. A part-time Resonant Conversation Initiative Coordinator, Ruth Esau (interim), has been appointed to assemble a volunteer team of facilitators, refine the learning experience, and facilitate the cohorts.

# Session 4: Friday, May 2, 2025

## 7:00pm



### **Dream Again** **John Cressman**

Everything starts with a dream.

In these days, the Lord is pouring out His Spirit and inviting His churches to dream again. In a world filled with hopelessness and sleepless nights, older saints are dreaming dreams for their church. Younger followers of Jesus (our sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters) are seeing fresh visions of the church. Our current churches are the fruit and legacy of former dreamers who were obedient and followed the vision God embedded in their hearts.

During our final session, in response to the call of the Lord of the harvest, we as an EMCC family of churches will dream again. Join us as we ask the Spirit to help us visualize and verbalize God's dreams for us. You won't want to miss or sleep through this dream session.

"God can do anything, you know – far more than we could ever imagine or guess or request in our wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us" (Ephesians 3:20-21 MSG).

What have you been dreaming about?  
What has your church been dreaming about?  
God, what dreams do you have for us?



## ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS

### Saturday Morning: 9:00am

#### **Prayer for a Generation: Creating Space for Young People in Gatherings**

**Facilitator: Genevieve Epp**

This workshop will be an interactive prayer experience, where prayer is at the very heart of Growing Young. We believe that prayer is central to a church's journey of growing younger, and we invite church teams to come to this workshop together to pray for all generations. As we explore the six Growing Young commitments in prayer, we'll ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us in each area. It's a chance to slow down, seek God's direction as a team, and pray earnestly for Him to "pour His Spirit upon our young people, and His blessing on our descendants" (Isaiah 44:3).



**Gen Epp** has served on the EMCC Next Gen Team since its inception. She has served as a youth pastor and coach. Recently, she has been appointed to the National Team as the Growing Young Initiative Coordinator, a part-time, two-year investment in developing a next-generation equipping initiative for churches in our denomination. Gen brings her big heart, passion and facilitator strengths to all she does.

#### **Resonant Conversations: Creating Space for Harmony & Understanding**

**Facilitators: Gavin Wark and Ruth Esau**

Resonance is the self-awareness and harmony achieved through improved conversations. It embodies the feeling that, even when we disagree, we still feel heard and understood. When we resonate with someone, they feel seen, heard, and valued. In a world marked by division, we aspire to learn how to listen with the intent to understand and walk together in harmony and respect. These are vital skills for ministers in our world today. This workshop will introduce ongoing training that we aim to make available to our EMCC family.

**Gavin Wark** serves part-time as Co-pastor at Plattsville EMC in Ontario and has been leading EMCC's Conversation Facilitation Team with Ruth since its formation in 2022. With a particular interest in spiritual formation, Gavin also has a practice in Spiritual Direction with expertise in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Always a learner, Gavin has given his attention recently to learning to become a listening presence.



**Ruth Esau** is an ordained minister with the EMCC serving through Inspired to Lead. Ruth's ministry focus is leadership development coaching and cohorts for those who serve in the non-profit or in business. Ruth's career has been honed through retail management, pastoral ministry at Centre Street Church, First Alliance Church and the Mustard Seed. Ruth has authored two books that focus on the way we work with people: *What-If Leadership Journal* and *Shifting Perspectives: Jesus through*

*a Leadership Lens.* Ruth has served with Gavin Wark and Karen Witmer on the Conversation Facilitation Team for the past two years. Ruth's warm-hearted approach to knowing and loving Jesus permeates her life and desire to walk with others in life-giving ways.

## **Habits of a Disciple-maker: One Who Multiplies Disciples**

**Facilitators: Claran Martin and Lynn Dietz**

Jesus' commission to His followers was to go and make disciples of all nations! During His earthly ministry, Jesus modelled what it meant to make disciples. He called people to Himself, journeyed with them and apprenticed them to Himself, His ways, His words and His works. This workshop will examine some disciple-making habits that Jesus modelled and how we can practice them as we journey with others in their apprenticeship to Jesus.



**Claran Martin** serves part-time in the Grey-Bruce Region of Ontario. In this role, he seeks to care for church leaders and coaches them to intentionally live on mission with Jesus. Before joining the EMCC National Team, Claran pastored in three diverse church gatherings: Lion's Head, Palmerston and Hanover over a span of 27 years. He enjoys connecting with pastors and church leaders as they seek to figure out what it means to follow Jesus in their present context. He gets passionate about raising up younger leaders who will

lead the EMCC into God's preferred future. Claran married Adriana in 1980, and God has blessed them with four children, who have now grown into adults. His children are spread across Canada living in Kelowna, BC; Steinbach, MB; and Wainfleet, ON. He enjoys learning about the ways, words and works of Jesus, leadership and new technology. Since he is now "mostly retired," he has been traveling more to invest into the lives of his thirteen grandchildren.

**Lynn Dietz** serves on the National Team as a Regional Minister in the four western provinces of Canada. Before becoming an RM in 2006, Lynn's pastoral ministry in local churches included roles as a solo pastor, church planting pastor, associate pastor and lead pastor, spanning over 22 years. As a Regional Minister in the EMCC, Lynn carries a strong passion for coaching, mentoring, communicating the Word of God, and developing disciple-making leaders. Lynn also enjoys working with pastors, church leaders and leadership teams to help them move their ministries forward towards Kingdom purposes in their neighbourhood and communities. Helping to shape our lives and ministry on Jesus' life and example is at the heart of who Lynn is. He and his wife Debbie live in Didsbury Alberta, have three married children and six grandchildren. He also enjoys riding horses, camping, and playing sports.

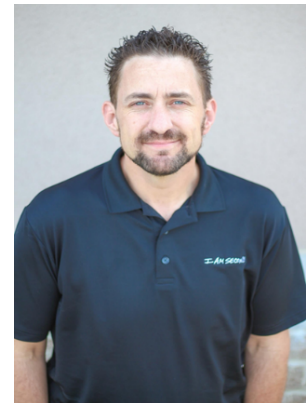


## **Gospel Conversations Training – Equipping Your Church to Engage the Lost**

**Facilitator: Jeremy Doorten**

Many people in our churches desire to share their faith but simply do not know how. In this Gospel Conversations Training, we will explore a very practical and simple toolset which you can use to train every person in your church to share their faith. This training has impacted tens of thousands across Canada and we are thrilled to bring it to you at the EMCC General Assembly, as we know God has used this teaching to bear great fruit! Now, it's your turn!

**Jeremy Doorten** serves as the Founder and Executive Director of [e3 Ministry Canada](#) and [I Am Second Canada](#) ([Je Suis Deuxieme](#)), having pioneered the work of e3 Partners Ministry into Canada in 2009. Over the past 20 years, Jeremy has been part of seeing churches established in 30+ countries around the world. To date, e3 Partners Ministry has helped denominations launch close to 900,000 churches in 102 countries worldwide and is on target to see 1 million healthy, reproducing churches established by the end of the year 2025. In 2009, the I Am Second movement began as an extension of e3 Partners Ministry and to date the powerful films have been viewed by countless millions of people online in every country on the planet. The I Am Second team is now tracking an average of 2000 views per hour globally with 70 million new site visitors logging in per year. All around the world people view the films, conversations are started, groups are formed and nurtured into vibrant faith communities (a.k.a. churches). Jeremy is building a dynamic staff team across Canada which is now coast to coast and is actively planting churches amongst French Canadians, First Nations people, and the e3 Canada team are actively engaging their communities and establishing churches in every corner of Canada. Whether on stage as speaker, musician or one on one, ultimately Jeremy is most passionate about seeing the lost won for Christ.



## **Seat at the Table: Everyone taking their place at the Church Board Table**

**Facilitator: John Cressman**

This workshop will explore how to come to the board table and what to bring. What does the chair bring? What does the pastor bring? What do board members bring? Together, we will unpack questions like who takes the lead on what and when. And, on what items do we partner? When should we get out of the way and not micromanage?



**John Cressman** serves as the President of EMCC and has particular experience coaching church boards. His recent book, *Pull Up a Chair*, is a handbook for church board chairs that helps them grow in confidence and competence as they serve the church.

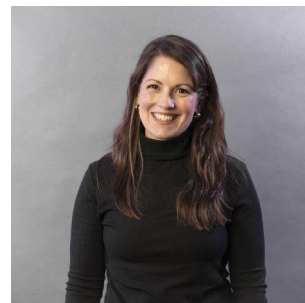
## **Saturday Morning: 10:45am**

### **Seasons of Multiplication: Building a Future Together with Young People**

**Facilitator: Genevieve Epp**

In this interactive workshop, we'll dig into the seasons of seeding, growing, and harvesting, exploring how these natural cycles mirror the life and rhythm of a church. With a spotlight on engaging young people, participants will dive into the six transformative commitments for growing younger congregations, assess where their church is on its journey, and brainstorm practical ways to make young people a core part of everything they do. Through lively discussions and hands-on planning, this workshop gives leaders the tools to inject fresh energy and create lasting impact, no matter what season their church is in.

**Gen Epp** has served on the EMCC Next Gen Team since its inception. She has served as a youth pastor and coach. Recently, she has been appointed to the National Team as the Growing Young Initiative Coordinator, a part-time, two-year investment in developing a next-generation equipping initiative for churches in our denomination. Gen brings her big heart, passion and facilitator strengths to all she does.



### **Resonant Conversations: Creating Space for Harmony & Understanding**

**Facilitators: Gavin Wark and Ruth Esau**

Resonance is the self-awareness and harmony achieved through improved conversations. It embodies the feeling that, even when we disagree, we still feel heard and understood. When we resonate with someone, they feel seen, heard, and valued. In a world marked by division, we aspire to learn how to listen with the intent to understand and walk together in harmony and respect. These are vital skills for ministers in our world today. This workshop will introduce ongoing training that we aim to make available to our EMCC family.

**Gavin Wark** serves part-time as Co-pastor at Plattsville EMC in Ontario and has been leading EMCC's Conversation Facilitation Team with Ruth since its formation in 2022. With a particular interest in spiritual formation, Gavin also has a practice in Spiritual Direction with expertise in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Always a learner, Gavin has given his attention recently to learning to become a listening presence.



**Ruth Esau** is an ordained minister with the EMCC serving through Inspired to Lead. Ruth's ministry focus is leadership development coaching and cohorts for those who serve in the non-profit or in business. Ruth's career has been honed through retail management, pastoral ministry at Centre Street Church, First Alliance Church and the Mustard Seed. Ruth has authored two books that focus on the way we work with people: *What-If Leadership Journal* and *Shifting Perspectives: Jesus through a*

*Leadership Lens*. Ruth has served with Gavin Wark and Karen Witmer on the Conversation Facilitation Team for the past two years. Ruth's warm-hearted approach to knowing and loving Jesus permeates her life and desire to walk with others in life-giving ways.



## Better Together: A Panel Discussion on the Benefits & Challenges of Collaborative Ministry

### Facilitators: Krista Bennett and Rosemary Flaaten

Join us for an engaging and insightful conversation exploring the dynamic interplay between men and women in ministry. This panel discussion delves into the practical benefits and unique challenges of collaborative ministry for greater kingdom impact. Our EMCC family panel of leaders includes Dr. Rosemary Flaaten, whose Doctorate of Ministry in Leadership focused specifically on women in leadership. Gain valuable insights and practical wisdom applicable to your own context during a dedicated Q&A session. This is an opportunity to learn, connect, and discover how we can work more effectively together for God's purposes.



**Krista Bennett** serves on the National Team as a coach to our leaders across Canada. Her primary role is to support our female pastors and connect with future leaders who sense a call to future expressions of the church. Krista is an Ordained Minister and a Certified Life Coach with more than a decade of experience coaching leaders into their kingdom call. She lives in Chilliwack, BC with her husband, Marty and her two boys, Tucker and Riley.

**Dr. Rosemary Flaaten** is the Executive Director of the Center for Healthy Relationships at John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, a Christian liberal arts university with an 1800-student body. Prior to assuming this leadership position in 2022, she taught as an adjunct at numerous Canadian colleges, including Rocky Mountain College, Ambrose University, and Canadian Lutheran Bible College. Rosemary has also held leadership, teaching, and preaching positions at Centre Street Church in Calgary. Her DMin dissertation focused on women in leadership.



## Disabusing the Church: An Introduction to the Investigation & Prevention of Abuse in the Local Church.

### Facilitator: Randal Rauser

Your church has a plan for fire emergencies. But do you have a plan for dealing with abuse allegations? In this workshop, Randal Rauser offers a practical introduction to recognizing, investigating, and preventing abuse. First, he will describe various types of abuse, such as harassment, sexual abuse, and spiritual abuse. Second, he will outline three common profiles of abusers: the narcissist, the psychopath, and the groomer. Third, he will give a brief overview of workplace investigations into abuse. He will conclude by highlighting some key features of a safer church.

**Randal Rauser** is Director of Faith-Based Organization Investigations at Veritas Solutions, where he has worked since 2019. Randal was previously a seminary professor at Taylor Seminary in Edmonton and is the author/co-author of seventeen books, including *Disabuse: How to Prevent, Detect, Investigate, and Eliminate Abuse in Churches and Faith-Based Organizations*, coauthored with Bob Stenhouse (Veritas Solutions CEO).



## Multiplying a Leadership Culture

### Facilitators: Jeff Knott and Brian Archer

While leadership development continues through Bible camps, colleges, and seminaries, it is time to consider and prioritize building a leadership development and multiplication culture in our local churches. Join this seminar to learn from and dialogue with other leaders about multiplying leaders in your local church.



**Jeff Knott** serves on the EMCC National Team as Regional Minister in Ontario East and North regions. After 20 years as an Industrial Millwright and Machinist, he was the lead pastor of Grace Church in Port Hope for 16+ years. His primary calling is to “proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ” (Col.

1:28). This vocational passion informs his desire to model, shape and disciple leaders to serve at their full kingdom potential. An unreserved commitment to the power of the gospel to transform lives is at the heart of his theology and practice. Jeff has been married to his wife Shelley for 33 years and has two grown children; their son Ethan, who is married to Mira, and their daughter Sadie. At this time, they have one grand puppy but are hopeful. Jeff has always been drawn to the outdoors as a place of refreshing and reflection. He loves anything that bangs or twangs and is an avid clay target shooter.

**Brian Archer** is a Regional Minister with the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada serving in the Western Canadian Region. Brian values his role as a coach and



## **Continuation of Brian Archer**

catalyst of God's Mission for EMCC Churches across Canada, stemming from over 30 years of pastoral and denominational service. He works with pastors, church leadership and congregations to help them focus on their mission and engage in new church starts that form out of new groups for new people. Brian's prayer and hope is to see followers of Jesus multiplied and working together to transform communities and neighbourhoods across Canada and around the world. He lives in Didsbury, Alberta with his wife, Diana. Brian enjoys reading, fixing computers and electronic gadgets, golfing and hiking.

# VENDORS

**Accelerate College** | [acceleratecollege.ca](https://acceleratecollege.ca)

**Contact information** – Martin Nieuwets | [martin@bethanycc.ca](mailto:martin@bethanycc.ca) | 905-359-8596

**Description** – At Accelerate College our fully-accredited programs offers aspiring pastors and Christian leaders of all ages a unique and accelerated pathway to theological and practical training - earning your Bachelor's degree in just 30 months! Accelerate is built on an apprenticeship model where each student is matched with a pastor-coach. This coach is either a Bethany Church staff member in St. Catharines, their local church pastor or a staff member at one of our partner churches who is specifically devoted to pouring wisdom into their life and building them up throughout the entire apprenticeship. As an apprentice, they will serve as part of their-pastor-coach's staff team. This team will be a major part of their day-to-day development during their program. Canada needs 625 new pastors each year for the next 12 years just to fill the gap of retiring pastors - let Accelerate help train you to meet this need!



**Church Renewal International** | [churchrenewal.com](https://churchrenewal.com)

**Contact information** – Tony and Sara Warriner, North American Directors | [tonyw@churchrenewal.com](mailto:tonyw@churchrenewal.com) | 250-793-4817

**Description** – Church Renewal International provides mentoring, resources, and peer groups to equip pastors for the real challenges of ministry. Whether you're navigating spiritual vitality, managing change, or addressing cultural and doctrinal pressures, you don't have to do it alone. Our proven pathway offers weekly online mentoring, practical tools, and a supportive community to help you lead with confidence and see your church thrive.

**Video Link** – <https://vimeo.com/1011427440/e045a9956e?share=copy>



**CornerBend Grief Ministries** | [www.cornerbend.com](https://www.cornerbend.com)

**Contact information** – Shirley Thiessen, Founder of CornerBend Grief Ministries | [shirley@cornerbend.com](mailto:shirley@cornerbend.com) | 403-852-8087  
Carey Thiessen, CFO, CornerBend Grief Ministries | 403-819-5073

**Description** – At CornerBend Grief Ministries we believe in the power of God's love, expressed through empathy, to bring hope and healing to broken hearts. But most people feel uncertain how to express empathy to grieving friends. We create resources and experiences offering practical ideas to help people confidently express God's love in ways that make a griever feel seen, heard and loved.

**Video Link** – Can be found in Vendor section of Assembly 2025.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/mmurr13ojth5yhn676i3q/AFADGiBcl88Lqkk7xyQ5yMA?rlkey=koin8yhxx4ndrkha1cqabked&e=1&st=sv0zol7u&dl=0>



**Crest Leadership Development** – <https://www.crestleadership.academy/>  
**Contact information** – John Pritchard | [john@crestleadership.ca](mailto:john@crestleadership.ca) | 403-816-7104

**Description** – The purpose of CREST is to empower leaders to flourish in the second half of their life.  
Our Mission – Engage leaders in their mid-years with a guided reflection over their life and leadership. Provide practical resources for marketplace and ministry leaders. Provide the opportunity to earn credentials along the way.



**Video Link** – Found in DropBox

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/National%20Events/General%20Assembly/Assembly%202025/AGM%20%26%20Assembly%20Book>

**Our Daily Bread Ministries Canada** | [ourdailybreadministries.ca](http://ourdailybreadministries.ca)  
**Contact information** – Stephen Harbridge, Executive Director  
[Stephen.harbridge@odbm.ca](mailto:Stephen.harbridge@odbm.ca) | 519-956-2444

**Description** – Our Daily Bread Ministries Canada - Bible Engagement for Life! Our mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all. Whether it's for churches, organizations or individuals, our resources help you or those you lead engage more in God's Word.

**Video Link** – [https://youtu.be/he7n6K\\_cJP4](https://youtu.be/he7n6K_cJP4)



**e3 Ministry Canada & I Am Second** | [www.e3ministry.ca](http://www.e3ministry.ca) [www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com)  
**Contact information** – Jeremy Doorten, Executive Director | 226-808-7428 | [jeremy.doorten@e3ministry.ca](mailto:jeremy.doorten@e3ministry.ca)

**Description** – e3 Ministry Canada ([www.e3ministry.ca](http://www.e3ministry.ca)) was established in 2010 and has spread coast-to-coast



throughout the nation. e3 Canada comes alongside existing churches and seek to **EQUIP** your people to share their faith and show them how to **EVANGELIZE** and gather disciples to **ESTABLISH**) began as an extension of e3 Partners Ministry and to date the powerful films have been viewed by countless millions of people online in every country on the planet. The I Am Second team is now tracking an average of 2000 views per hour globally with 70 million new site visitors logging in annually. **I Am Second** movement ([www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com)) began as an extension of e3 Partners Ministry and to date the powerful films have been viewed by countless millions of people online in every country on the planet. The I Am Second team is now tracking an average of 2000 views per hour globally with 70 million new site visitors logging in annually.



**The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada** | [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca)  
**Contact information** – Neil and Juliana Siemens

**Description** – The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (*l'Alliance évangélique du Canada*) is



the national association of evangelical Christians in Canada. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals, fostered ministry partnerships, conducted research on religious and social trends and provided a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society. EFC affiliates include denominations, ministry organizations, post-secondary educational institutions and individual congregations, who uphold a common statement of faith and **organizational “objects”** (goals) and who often join in collaborative projects. The EFC also has thousands of supporting individuals.

**Video Link** – <https://evangelicalfellowship.ca/Resources/Videos/What-is-the-EFC-and-what-does-it-do-Overview-video>

**International Justice Mission** [www.ijm.ca](http://www.ijm.ca)

**Contact information** – Erin Delamont | [edelamont@ijm.ca](mailto:edelamont@ijm.ca) | 403-818-3135  
Rev. Brian Mullins | [rmullins@ijm.ca](mailto:rmullins@ijm.ca) | 647-239-1903

**Description** – International Justice Mission (IJM) Canada exists to protect people in poverty from violence by rescuing victims, bringing the criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement build a safe future that lasts. Motivated by our Christian faith and biblical call to seek justice for people in oppression, IJM Canada partners with local authorities, NGOs, and churches in 33 field offices in 19 countries to combat modern slavery, human trafficking, online sexual exploitation of children, and violence against women and children.



**Video Link** – Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbeQ9xlywiY>  
or downloadable at [this link](#).

iTEE Canada | [iteecanada.org](http://iteecanada.org) iTEE Global | [iteeg.org](http://iteeg.org)  
Contact information – Beverly Dewit | [beverlyd@iteecanada.org](mailto:beverlyd@iteecanada.org) |  
[beverlyd@iteeg.org](mailto:beverlyd@iteeg.org) | 226-668-9269

**Description** – iTEE Canada's vision is to promote worldwide, self-sustaining training movements that biblically equip church leaders. Our vision is to bring relationally-driven biblical ministry education to church leaders lacking access. Our passion is to multiply disciple-makers.

**Video Link** – <https://vimeo.com/652636061/5390f8844d>



**Next Gen Team: Growing Younger Initiative** | <https://emccenrich.ca/next-gen>  
Contact information – Genevieve Epp | [gepp@emcc.ca](mailto:gepp@emcc.ca) | 226-750-3683

**Description** – The Next Gen Team consists of seasoned leaders who are volunteering to support and resource churches! They are leading the EMCC Growing Young Initiative which helps whole church communities shift their culture and practices to grow with the next generation of Christ-followers, becoming ready together for what's next.



**Rivers Edge Camp** | [riversedgecamp.org](http://riversedgecamp.org)  
Contact information – Andrew Fitch |  
[andrew@riversedgecamp.org](mailto:andrew@riversedgecamp.org) | 403-354-5741

**Description** – We are a retreat center and summer camp situated on over 300 acres in the foothills of the beautiful Rocky Mountains. We exist to create an environment that inspires people to experience Jesus-centred transformation! Whether that's a retreat group or a summer camp, we aim to provide environments where people can encounter God in his beautiful creation.



**Rocky Mountain College** | [rockymountaincollege.ca](http://rockymountaincollege.ca)  
Contact information – Robert Harris |  
403-801-5571

**Description** – RMC is a Bible college that removes barriers and delivers on-demand Christian Biblical education to where you are. Stay engaged in your setting and study at your own pace when it is convenient for you. Come be trained, mentored and inspired by RMC's practitioner-based facilitators.

**Viewbook** – [https://issuu.com/rockymountaincollegeca/docs/rmc\\_view\\_book](https://issuu.com/rockymountaincollegeca/docs/rmc_view_book)



**Samaritan's Purse Canada** | [www.samaritanpurse.ca](http://www.samaritanpurse.ca)

**Contact information** – Nikki Ferguson | [nfeerguson@samaritan.ca](mailto:nfeerguson@samaritan.ca) | 403 512 9826

**Description** – Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Video Link** – Use the following Box link to download a 1:05 minute overview of Samaritan's Purse <https://samaritan.box.com/s/ywsmqv6syi2oczak8uu3mn3oj0ezacab>



**World Partners** | <https://www.emcc.ca/world-partners/>

**Contact information** – Nicole Jones-Qandah, Director | [wp@emcc.ca](mailto:wp@emcc.ca)

**Description** – World Partners continues to seek to create places of meaningful connection and opportunities for mission mobilization alongside our EMCC leaders and churches. World Partners engages the church to participate in Jesus' mission with commitment to learning, strategic global presence, integral development and compassionate action, resulting in individual and social transformation.



**World Partners**

Following Jesus Together



# **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

2024-2025



**Evangelical Missionary  
Church of Canada**  
Following Jesus Together

## President's Assembly Report

May 1, 2025

### From the Shore to New Territories

Five years ago, the Lord gave us a picture as a denomination. Like the Israelites, we found ourselves camped along the shore of the Jordan River. With an uncertain future before us, we heeded His instructions (paraphrase), "Since you have never been this way before, consecrate yourselves – purify and prepare yourselves, and only move out when you see me move. In the days ahead, I will do amazing things among you." In those moments, the Spirit of God placed a compass in our hands - four compass directives to guide our movement toward our vision: to make disciples who make disciples, invest in leaders who develop other leaders and encourage churches and disciple-makers to multiply new churches and communities of followers of Jesus on mission to the world.

*By Assembly 2025, looking back, we will have prepared the way organizationally and operationally to be **future-ready** to better serve our current EMCC leaders (pastors, global workers and global partners) and EMCC churches and started to open the door to support future leaders and future expressions of the church.*

*By Assembly 2025, looking back, we will have grown in **Christ-like character** marked by holy living and mutual accountability.*

*By Assembly 2025, looking back, we will have experienced greater levels of collegiality and **engagement** in our life together as an EMCC family, leading to greater collective impact.*

Over the past four years, we have taken steps to prepare ourselves for the future at both the denominational and congregational levels. We have refreshed and updated our structures, systems, and policies to align with our purposes and to sustain and guide us into the future. Additionally, we have worked to enhance reporting and accountability, as shown by the fact that 95% of our credential holders submit their annual reports on time. We have humbly sought to genuinely address cases of historical abuse and proactively respond to allegations of concern. We are continually learning to be like Jesus in our attitudes, behaviour and character. To this point, we have engaged with 76 out of 106 member churches in a concerted effort to strengthen our bonds and renew our covenant relationship. We plan to engage with the remainder of our member church boards in 2025. Our interactions have sparked awareness, church-to-church reconnections, understanding, forgiveness, and prayer and helped clarify expectations.

To read powerful stories about what our EMCC members, churches, global workers and National Team have been doing, download the EMCC Together Magazine here: [https://www.emcc.ca/files/emccadmin/2025\\_EMCCTogether\\_digitalweb.pdf](https://www.emcc.ca/files/emccadmin/2025_EMCCTogether_digitalweb.pdf) or from our website [www.emcc.ca](http://www.emcc.ca).

At Assembly 2025, we launch into our fourth compass point - multiplication.

*By Assembly 2025, looking back, we will have strengthened our reflexes toward **multiplication by 2027**. We expect to count more disciples, as disciples multiply disciples; more leaders, as leaders multiply leaders; and more churches, as churches multiply new churches and disciple-making communities.*



## EMCC Initiatives

To that end, we have launched the following two-year initiatives, which have received the National Board's wholehearted endorsement and funding.

### Multiplication Initiative (M<sup>3</sup>)

M<sup>3</sup> represents our collective intention to multiply disciples, leaders and churches. In this case, more is better because it means more transformations, more potential released and more churches and communities of followers of Jesus on mission to the world.

Multiplication flows out of prayer to the Lord of the Harvest. Our current Season of Prayer (March 21-April 30) calls our EMCC family to concerted prayer. For details and resources, [www.emcc.ca](http://www.emcc.ca).

This initiative invites us to transform our minds from focusing on division, subtraction, and even addition to multiplication. It calls us to move beyond survival and maintenance - from hold-on-to mode to dream mode. At Assembly 2025, we will ask the Spirit of God to help us dream again. Disciples, leaders and churches are the fruit of people obediently pursuing a dream from God to start something and invest in someone.

To stimulate our multiplication reflex, we have opened a Multiplication Grant Fund that will allow us to bless new initiatives – to water new seeds. We seek a Multiplication Initiative Coordinator to help stimulate and resource our dreams and multiplication efforts. We will learn from others who have multiplication mindsets and actions. We know there is much to learn from our global partners.

## Growing Younger Initiative

This initiative aims to help pastors and church leadership teams create lasting culture changes in their congregations that help foster meaningful engagement with the next generation (under 25).

This two-year initiative leverages a partnership with Fuller Youth Institute to provide training and resources to churches for growing young. This initiative does not diminish our need to disciple and support our members of all ages. In our work with emerging generations, those under 25 are leaving the church in alarming numbers. Hiring a youth pastor is not enough. Pastors are overwhelmed by the needs of their existing members and often feel ill-equipped to make the necessary cultural shifts to engage younger generations effectively. This is not just a pastor issue but a whole church issue. Few individuals under 25 are being invited, stepping into, or being mentored into leadership positions within the church. As a denomination focused on the future, our priority must be to engage with younger generations to preserve and grow the legacy of our faith. Despite challenging times, there is an opportunity and a growing desire from the next generation to know more about Jesus and be a vital part of the church.

To grow younger, we have developed a two-year strategy to work with 10 pilot EMCC churches, raising trainers to impact more churches. We desire to include those under 25 in our conversations, plans, and equipping. We have appointed a Growing Young Initiative Coordinator, Genevieve Epp, who is forming a volunteer team to lead the way and by example. At Assembly 2025, we will launch a Growing Young survey to gather baseline data on how we currently engage young people under 25.

## **Resonant Conversations Initiative**

Ultimately, every community has to learn how to talk together. We are created as conversational beings created to live most fully in community in conversation.

Conversation can be difficult amid diverse opinions and convictions. Fight. Flight. Check out. Lean in. By learning to talk together, be present to one another, be self-aware of our reactions and follow the guidance of Christ's presence with us in the Holy Spirit, we mature into the full stature of Christ (Eph 4:13) and witness our world.

Within our denominational family, we hold differing convictions on many matters. Differences often lead to division, but they don't have to. Over our history, we can point to conversations that became heated and led to hurt rather than mutual understanding and unity of purpose and mission while respecting differences. We dream of being a family that talks well together – that doesn't jump from distrust to defence without first offering our ears, hearts, minds and intent to understand – that has resonant conversations. A resonant conversation is one where there is resonance – a harmony of mutual respect, mutual awareness and mutual learning.

This two-year initiative aims to foster a learner-centred culture within our denomination, enabling us to engage in constructive conversations. The goal is to learn how to understand, collaborate with, minister to, and grow from those with differing convictions. (Note: There is no agenda to change our Articles of Faith; instead, the goal is to learn how to talk better together.)

Our Conversation Facilitation Team, established in 2022, has created an

interactive four-part learning cohort experience to enhance our awareness of how we communicate in conversations. A pilot cohort was conducted in 2024, with participants reporting notable growth in self-awareness and understanding. In 2025, we will offer three additional cohorts. The goal is to train individuals who will, in turn, provide this essential training annually, enabling all our credential holders and church leaders to engage in more effective conversations during our denominational meetings and discussions with members and individuals from our congregations. A part-time Resonant Conversation Initiative Coordinator, Ruth Esau (interim), has been appointed to assemble a volunteer team of facilitators, refine the learning experience, and facilitate the cohorts.

## **EMCC Research Projects**

### **Denominational Funding Research**

In a proactive effort to be future-ready, the EMCC National Board contracted a research consultant to conduct in-depth research to inform EMCC of options for a financially sustainable future. Between February 5 and March 15, 2024, Karen Kirkwood from OrgHealth conducted one-on-one interviews with representatives from eight similar Canadian Christian-based denominations to learn about their funding models, successes, and challenges. A representative sample (32) of EMCC member churches were surveyed to know what services they value and their approach and understanding of giving to EMCC. The results of this research were presented to the National Board and then to participants at our Regional Gatherings in 2024.

The following key themes emerged from the research and subsequent discussion:

- EMCC is a lean organization that does much with what is given.
- Member churches value EMCC's leadership and services yet often do not know all that is provided or available.
- EMCC relies primarily on member church contributions as a sole source of revenue, which is not a sustainable model. "Over 90% of EMCC's revenue currently comes from member churches compared to 65% for other similar denominations.
- Lessons learned from other funding models included adding standard cost recovery fees and strengthening investment opportunities.

The following two steps are being taken toward our financial sustainability:

The National Board and National Team have been on an "Engagement Tour" to increase awareness of EMCC services and the covenant relationship between the member church and the denomination, which includes giving to the EMCC.

The National Board has directed the National Team to establish standard cost recovery fees.

Effective September 1, 2025, there will be a new church application fee for those looking to become member churches.

Effective January 1, 2026, there will be a standard annual base member church contribution fee of \$2500.00. This fee is covered by all churches that contribute 5% or more than \$2500. The fee will primarily apply to member churches that do not give to EMCC annually or have not spoken to us about their financial situation.

Effective September 1, 2025, all credential applicants will pay a \$150.00 standard application fee. This fee does not apply to those moving from EMCC Provisional License to Licenced Minister to Ordained Minister. The church or organization recommending or hiring the credential holder may choose to pay the fee on behalf of the candidate.

Effective at Annual Reporting in 2026, all credential holders (except those retired) must pay a standard annual fee of \$250.00. Those currently with MOUs with Other Ministries will be folded into this plan. Fees will be submitted as part of the credential holder's annual reporting. Churches and organizations may pay the fee on behalf of the credential holder, but the credential holder is responsible for ensuring it is paid.

### **Mission Sending Research**

To uphold our commitment to sending global workers and mobilizing followers of Jesus on mission, the National Board has contracted the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) Centre for Ministry Partners and Innovation Project Team to conduct thorough research into sustainable sending models. Following a similar approach to the funding research project, EMCC missions stakeholders will be interviewed, a representative group of member churches will be surveyed, and interviews will be conducted with external denominations and mission organizations. This research project aims to identify sending models the EMCC may adopt as it moves forward. The goal is to present a report to the National Board in late 2025 and discuss the findings at our Regional Gatherings in 2026.

## **World Partners Report**

Nicole Jones Qandah, Director

### **Celebrating Our Global Workers**

We celebrated the retirement of Keith and Ruth Ann Elliott on March 31, 2024. They began their missionary service in 1979 and have left a lasting legacy as missionaries in Ecuador and Mexico. They have been, and continue to be, an integral part of EMCC's ongoing commitment to Jesus' mission in Latin America. You can read more in the 2024 EMCC Together Magazine.

[https://www.emcc.ca/files/emccadmin/Publications/EMCCTogether/2024\\_EMCCTogether\\_Digital.pdf](https://www.emcc.ca/files/emccadmin/Publications/EMCCTogether/2024_EMCCTogether_Digital.pdf)

On June 9, 2024, we celebrated Marilyn McIlroy's retirement, her legacy as a missionary in Haiti, and her contributions to health and community development within our denomination. Marilyn's passion and compassion inspired many to reflect on their roles in the broader global church.

Update: Ken & Carolyn Benson  
The Bensons are now on loan (seconded) to the MORE network to continue supporting global workers transitioning to and from their mission assignments. They are searching for a new director for Ken to mentor over the next few years.

### **Connecting with Global Workers & Partners**

In March 2024, Marilyn McIlroy and Nicole travelled to the Dominican Republic to connect with our Haitian partner and provide encouragement during the country's crisis. They also had the joy of meeting with a leader from the DR church for prayer and learning.

In May 2024, Nicole visited Romania and Dorothy Reid, who has ministered to children and widows over the last 29 years and connected with Kevin & Michelle Weppel, who serve with GEM.

In November 2024, Tracy Minke (CrossRoads, Red Deer and member of our National Board travelled with Nicole to South Africa to visit Dan and Kerry Wiens and tour the model farm. We celebrate our partnership with Inundo and continue to discern what co-labouring looks like.

In 2023, we hosted Shane D'Souza of Salvation Ministries, India, one of our global partners and introduced him to pastors at our Fall Retreats. There was rich mutual learning.

In 2024, we hosted the President of the Missionary Church of Cuba, Rodolfo Rodriguez & his wife, Lisette. They inspired pastors at the Fall Retreats and thanked us for the Pentecost Offering timely gifts.

### **Giving Projects**

The 2024 Pentecost Offering was an amazing expression of our collective impact. Together, we raised \$62,000 toward four worthy causes: Cuba's food and security, the practical needs of children in India and Nepal, and investing in the next generation through our Next Gen Team. We hope to express our unity and love again through a 2025 Pentecost Offering on June 8, 2025.

### **Lausanne Congress**

Several EMCC members participated in the fourth Lausanne Word Congress in South Korea from September 23 to 27, 2024. More than 5,000 leaders from 220 nations gathered to discuss the global state of mission and evangelism. A separate report is included.

## Where Are We?



### British Columbia

Cross Connection Church, Chilliwack  
Hillside Community Church, Coquitlam  
Nova Church, Surrey  
Powers Creek, West Kelowna  
Richmond Faith Fellowship, Richmond  
Ridgeview EMC, Kelowna  
Saanichton Bible Fellowship (near Victoria)  
Winfield Community Church, Kelowna  
Charis Camp & Conference Center, Chilliwack

### Alberta

Angels On Assignment, Calgary\*  
Athabasca EMC  
Beaumont Community Church  
Bergen Missionary Church Fellowship, Sundre  
Bethel EMC, Carstairs  
Bethel EMC, Hanna  
Bethel EMC, Three Hills  
Bonavista EMC, Calgary  
Bowden EMC  
Brooks Sudanese Christian Church\*  
Calgary Christian Tamil Church\*  
Castor Evangelical Missionary Fellowship  
Centre Street Church, Calgary (5 campuses)  
Chestermere Christian Fellowship, Chestermere  
Cornerstone Oromo, Calgary\*  
Cremona Country Fellowship  
CrossRoads EMC, Red Deer

Edmonton Masihi Church\*  
Emmanuel EMC, Holden  
Faith Community Church, Edmonton  
Foothills Community Church, Okotoks  
Gospel Fire Evangelical Church, Lethbridge\*  
Harvest New Life Christian Fellowship, Edmonton  
Hillcrest EMC, Medicine Hat  
Hoadley EMC, Bluffton  
McDougal Chapel, Sundre  
Mountain View EMC Fellowship, Didsbury  
Multicultural Christian Church, Edmonton  
Nampa EM Gospel Fellowship  
New Life Community Church, Stony Plain  
Oyen EMC  
Parkdale Grace Fellowship, Calgary  
Peniel Pentecostal Assembly, Beaumont\*  
The Edge Home Church Network\*  
The Link, Medicine Hat  
Vulcan EMC  
Yeshu Mandli, Calgary  
Zion EMC, Didsbury  
Zon EMC, New Sarepta  
Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre, Cremona  
Whispering Pines Camp, Elkwater  
Rocky Mountain College, Calgary

### Saskatchewan

Bethany EMC, Melville  
Faith EMC, Swift Current  
Hope EMC, Burstall  
Kenaston EMC  
Lipton EMC  
Macoun EMC  
Preston Avenue Community Church, Saskatoon  
St. Paul's EMC, Rosthern  
Whitewood EMC  
Echo Lake Bible Camp, Fort San

### Manitoba

Albright EMC, East St. Paul  
Immanuel Fellowship EMC, Winnipeg (2 campuses)



## Ontario

Abasaruzi EMC, Toronto\*  
Abundant Life EMC, Markham  
Aylmer EMC  
Bethany Community Church, St. Catharines  
Bethany EMC, Kitchener  
Bethel EMC, New Dundee  
Bethel Missionary Church, Lions Head  
Bethel Missionary Church, Lindsay  
Brampton EMC  
Breslau EMC  
Café Church, Kingston\*  
Callandar Bay EMC  
Calvary EMC, Owen Sound  
Chesley Community Church  
Christian Family Worship Centre, Scarborough  
Compass Life Church, Stayner  
Country Hills Church, Kitchener  
Eau Claire EMC, Mattawa  
Eastridge EMC, Stouffville  
Elgin Missionary Church, Stratford  
Emmanuel EMC, Elmira  
Faith EMC, Kitchener  
Faith EMC, Wasaga Beach  
First EMC, Pembroke  
Freshwater Community Church, Mindemoya  
Grace EMC, Port Hope  
Hanover Missionary Church  
Harmony Community Church, Winchester  
Hillside Church, Mt Albert  
Hope Chapel, Collingwood  
Hope City Church, Barrie\*  
Huron Chapel EMC, Auburn  
Lakeshore EMC, North Bay  
Listowel EMC  
Markham EMC  
Mississauga Chinese EMC  
Mt. Pleasant EMC,  
Paisley EMC  
Palmerston EMC  
Plattsville EMC  
Praise Tabernacle, Mississauga  
Prospect EMC, Colborne  
Romanian Baptist Church, Toronto

Salem EMC, Eganville  
Sarnia EMC  
Saugeen Shores Community Church, Port Elgin  
South Shore EMC, Callandar  
St. Clair Community Church, Sombra  
St. Clair EMC, Scarborough  
Sudbury Chinese EMC  
Tavistock EMC  
Trinity EMC, Waterloo  
Triumph EMC, Toronto  
Upper Thames EMC, Mitchell  
Vineland EMC  
Verity Community Church, Waterloo  
Wilmot Centre EMC, Petersburg  
Zephyr Missionary Church  
Camp Mishewah, Killaloe  
Stayner Camp & Christian Retreat Centre

## Quebec - Eglise La Peche, Wakefield

### Overview:

**106** Member Churches

**12** Candidate Churches working to become member churches (noted with \*)

**3** Churches in EMCC intervention

– Joshua Crossing, Oakville; Grace EMC, Killaloe; Riverside EMC, Toronto,

**2** Churches suspended – Wellspring Worship Centre, Toronto & Royal City Mission, Guelph.

**1** Church withdrawing – Almaguin EMC, South River, ON

**1** Church closing – Little Plume EMC, AB

**2** Churches closed since the 2023 Assembly – Shrigley EMC, ON & Heartland EMC, ON

**9** World Partners Supervised Global Workers serving on the Saugeen & Algonquin First Nation reserves, serving Mexico and Romania and those preparing to and transitioning from global assignment

**55** Recognized Global Workers serving in Canada and around the world.

The prayer and call before us:

**Where is God calling us to go and multiply?**

## From the Credentialing Department

April 1, 2023 – March 1, 2025

As of March 1, 2025, we currently have 352 Active Credential Holders in the EMCC. 36 hold a Provisional Licensed Minister Credential, 77 hold a Licensed Minister Credential, and 239 hold an Ordained Minister Credential.

Since April 2023, the Credentialing Department has collaborated with many individuals to update their credentialing statuses.

We are thrilled and thankful to have welcomed 41 newly credentialed personnel – 14 Provisional Licensed Ministers, 15 Licensed Ministers, and 12 Ordained Ministers. We eagerly anticipate how the Lord will work through these dedicated servants in their ministry.

In addition, we provided assistance to 22 individuals as they transitioned into retirement. It has been a true blessing to walk alongside them as they reflect on their life's journey and recognize God's hand in it all. We wish God's abundant blessings to all those who entered retirement in the past two years as they embark on this new chapter of their lives!

With heavy hearts, we also share the loss of 13 credentialed individuals and 4 spouses of credentialed personnel who have gone to be with the Lord since April 2023. Their legacy continues through the lives of those they served. We joyfully remember them and take comfort in knowing they are now resting in the arms of Jesus.

Shannon Hamill  
Database & Credentialing Administrator  
EMCC



# Observations from Lausanne papers and the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress in Seoul, South Korea

By David Benjamin and James Park



The Lausanne Congress in 1974 brought together church leaders from around the world, who affirmed their shared conviction that the whole church must take the whole gospel to the whole world. Joel Zantigh reports that in September 2024, the historic Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (L4) gathered 5,394 on-site delegates from 200 countries in South Korea, along with over 2,000 virtual delegates and more than 2,000 congress team members. This also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of this remarkable movement committed to global mission.

Two years prior to the congress, preparatory work included global listening calls resulting in the Seoul Statement<sup>1</sup> that includes,

- A call to repentance from our failure to condemn and restrain violence, by promoting nationalism, or by unjustly supporting conflicts through deficient theological justification.
- A call to serve the vulnerable in contexts of war by supporting the relief and humanitarian efforts near conflict zones. To be peacemakers, by supporting negotiations aimed at ending conflicts and by calling for justice and reparation for the innocent victims of violence.
- A call to differentiate between peoples associated by name, history, geography, or ancestry with modern nation-states and the peoples who live under the political sovereignty of these states.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://lausanne.org/statement/the-seoul-statement>

- To lament looking to the state rather than the gospel as the key means for bringing about God's intentions for the world.

## The Christian Life

The life in Christ is rooted in a hunger for God.<sup>2</sup> We pursue God by living out biblical truths and values, and thus, as one Arab Israeli leader succinctly put it, we become resilient believers. We similarly invite others, not through coercion, to find their satisfaction in Christ. This pursuit is rooted in suffering and sacrifice with Christ and receiving healing and restoration through Christ.

“The reality of the Tohoku area prior to the disaster (the great Tohoku Earthquake in Japan in March 2011) was difficult. People kept distance from Christians as they thought Christians were weird religious people. But as Christians kept bringing the materials, people began to open their mind toward Christians. People were not open before the disaster, but Christians could earn the trust of the local people through our holistic mission by bringing physical and emotional good news. It was a holistic revolution for Tohoku Christians. After a few months, people in the evacuation centers, they began asking about the Bible and the church. Mental care and physical care helped us to reach their hearts. So, they began saying, “You are Christians, why don’t you talk about the Bible?” That was a big change in the relationship between people and Church. Christians also changed their orientation. Before they remained standing in a circle looking inward and prayed. But now, they look outward, looking [at] people outside. This was a big change in Church mindset. The natural disaster is never a happy occasion, but it is biblical to understand that amid darkness shines the light of the Gospel. The breakthrough happened when the church went beyond their comfort zones by touching people physically, emotionally, communally and socially with Christ’s love.” – Kenichi Shinagawa, R&D Co-Leader in the Japan Lausanne Committee; former General Secretary of Japan Evangelical Association.

## Good news for today's world

When we seek to engage people with the good news of Christ, we also enter spiritual warfare with the principalities and powers of evil. This battle requires us to know the Word, walk in the Spirit and pray.<sup>3</sup> The church needs to break down internal silos and together bear witness to the truth of Christ in a pluralistic, globalized world and to promote truth particularly in the workplace and the global media. As we move from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light, we cast off selfish ambition, dishonesty, and covetousness, and embrace a life of simplicity, contentment, and generosity.

The Cape Town Commitment (2010) called the church to actively engage the public arenas of government, business, and academia with biblical truth and to seek alignment with *missio Dei* above business goal setting. To ask, ‘how do we join God on his mission’ (God-focused) rather than ‘how do we accelerate missions?’ (church-focused). Half of the world now lives in cities including the next generation, immigrants from least reached nations, the culture shapers and the poorest of the poor.

<sup>2</sup> <https://lausanne.org/about/blog/the-asbury-revival-and-our-hunger-for-god>

<sup>3</sup> Manilla Manifesto



## Shalom and the Other



“Human displacement results in the creation of strangers, foreigners, migrants, aliens, exiles, nomads, refugees, and servitude.”<sup>4</sup> Trauma causes people to neither receive care nor give care even to their loved ones. Relationships suffer in households, camps or cities bringing divorce, gender, violence and devastation to families and particularly children.

God is sovereign over human dispersion even reshaping Christianity throughout its history. “The world’s population, at just over 8 billion, has a 0.88% annual growth rate, but Christianity is growing at a rate of 0.98%. Around one-third of the world’s population is Christian.”<sup>5</sup> There’s a prediction “that by the year 2050 one quarter of the world, as well as 50 percent of all global evangelicals, will be African.”<sup>6</sup> Global Diaspora Network is “focused on equipping a new generation of diaspora leaders, workers and missiological researchers for mission among diasporas in the 21st century.”<sup>7</sup>

### Workplace

Ministry in the workplace addresses social, environmental, and economic issues.<sup>8</sup> Business as Mission Global and many other networks seek to leverage for-profit and Christ-centered solutions to strategic global issues such as poverty, slavery, unreached peoples, unemployment, environmental degradation and corruption.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://lausanne.org/occasional-paper/forcibly-displaced-people>

<sup>5</sup> <https://research.lifeway.com/2025/02/11/9-encouraging-trends-for-global-christianity-in-2025/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://lausanne.org/about/blog/learning-from-leaders-from-africa-and-the-middle-east-at-l4am>

<sup>7</sup> <https://globaldiasporanetwork.org/about/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://lausanne.org/network/business-as-mission>

<sup>9</sup> <https://bamglobal.org/about/#Mission>



## The Resilient Church



“We who are infected with spiritual leprosy have no idea what it means to suffer for our Lord Jesus Christ”<sup>10</sup> and to boldly proclaim and display the gospel without hindrance or fear in places like North Korea. Leaders from one Middle Eastern nation were jailed for several years after the last Congress in 2010. Yet they continued to plant new ministries in several towns despite persecution and imprisonment. The gospel of Jesus is not bound! Shortly after L4, the regime was toppled in that nation reminding us of the power of prayer.

“Persecution teaches us three things,” said a Kuki leader from Manipur (India), “It gives us an opportunity to participate in the suffering of our blessed Lord. It demands purification of our lives and thus proclaim the gospel of Christ with forgiveness, love and compassion.”<sup>11</sup>

### Technology for transformation

We inherit creativity from the Creator God. However, we are tempted to worship the created thing rather than the Creator (Rom 1:25) in whom we *“live and move and have our being”* (Acts 17:28). We must renounce our secret and shameful ways, deception of people and distorting the message of the gospel for personal gain. Our faithful and contextual presence in digital spaces will bring

<sup>10</sup> <https://lausanne.org/about/blog/how-can-spiritual-leprosy-be-healed>

<sup>11</sup> <https://lausanne.org/about/blog/manipur-hymns-of-hope>

health and transformation. Technology has sped the work of Bible translation, and this new generation is leading the way into new spaces for the gospel.

The vision of L4 is to accelerate discipleship in all nations by 2050.<sup>12</sup> Issue networks and action hubs are now actively engaging so that the whole church may take the whole gospel to the whole world.

## Canada



Canada is a nation of nations. There are ethnic people groups in Canada from some of the least reach regions on the planet. They live in our neighbourhoods, attend our schools, and work in our communities. Especially in the last few years, we have seen so many people come to Canada from countries like India, China, Syria, and Nigeria.

Just like James Park's parents who came in the 70's from a poverty-stricken South Korea. His parents came looking for refuge and a better life. They were Buddhists upon arriving in Canada. And while searching for refuge, they discovered Jesus Christ. He became their ultimate refuge. Since then, James' parents have shared their faith with those around them, on mission trips to China and Africa, and back home in Korea to their family members. Many have come to Christ through their witness.

The thousands of people coming to Canada from Asia, Africa, Middle East, and Latin America are coming looking for refuge. But they will not find it in our government policies, affordability or, my goodness, the weather. The only refuge is Jesus Christ, and the church is the only means to these people finding Jesus as their greatest refuge.

Canada is strategically placed on the global missions stage to be a massive part of finishing the task of the Great Commission. In order to reach the diverse people groups in our country, the church of Canada must be mobilized so that the whole church can preach the whole gospel to the whole world for the glory of God.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://lausanne.org/l4>

# Rocky Mountain College Report

Mike Swalm



It is my privilege to present this report to the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada General Assembly. It is my continued prayer that God's favour would rest on the work we do together to see His Kingdom increase.

## Big Changes

Since 1992, Rocky Mountain College has been working to see men and women trained up in the way of Jesus. While our mission statement has changed with the times, Rocky's living out of that mission has remained consistent. The current expression of our mission sees Rocky offering a "distributed learning" environment to our students, which is part of our goal of removing as many barriers to theological education as possible. We have embraced the ideal of offering theological education to "anyone, anywhere, anytime."

This shift is not the only change at RMC. We have experienced a shift in leadership as well. Kerry Belt has recently resigned his position after 17 years of service as the president of Rocky. Kerry's work in building a strong foundation for theological education in Canada is greatly appreciated. In January 2025, I (Mike Swalm) was hired by the RMC Board to be the new president. I have been a part of RMC for decades and I am excited to work with our excellent staff to build on the current foundation.

As part of the transition to "distributed learning," and to provide long-term stability, RMC sold its building in Brentwood (Calgary), and used part of the proceeds to purchase and finish an administrative building on the west side of the city. This building should be finished mid-April, 2025. The rest of the proceeds have been invested to provide for some of our financial needs.

## The Present

RMC's current educational model is focused on fulfilling our mission: As an accredited institution of Christian higher education RMC's mission is to provide quality Christian learning that results in transformed lives. We are accomplishing this by delivering coursework...

To Anyone: it doesn't matter where you live, what work you're already doing – if you need theological education, we'll do our best to deliver it!

Anytime: busy during the day? Work on your courses in the evening! Have a few weeks of holiday? Complete your course then! Rocky's courses are available at any time, meaning we can work with your schedule.

Anywhere: As long as you have an internet connection, you can be learning! In the car, at the desk, in the remotest parts of Canada and beyond, RMC has got you covered.

We have recently added two exciting new programs: Addiction Counseling and Indigenous Studies. It is our hope that these concentrations enable our students to better engage our current context by applying the gospel in exciting ways.

### **The Future**

I am at work with the RMC Board of Governors developing a strategic plan to move Rocky forward into the future God is building. I am hopeful that you as the EMCC constituency will join me in prayer and in spirit as we work together to follow our Lord and raise up leaders for the future. You can expect a call from me in the near future (unless you call me first!). I want to meet EVERYONE, and I can't wait to connect with you to hear what God is up to.

I'm also looking forward to close relationship with the EMCC. It's my historical church home, and I'm thankful to be back among you!



## 2024 Camp Mishewah Report

In the summer of 2024, many people once again experienced a time of encouragement, rest, and renewal at Camp Mishewah. Time and time again, we hear words like these:

“Mishewah is my second home.”

“Mishewah is where I feel closest to God.”

“Mishewah is where my faith journey began.”

“There’s something about Mishewah – as soon as you drive on to the grounds, you can just feel it.”

“Mishewah is a place of peace.”

But why do so many people feel this way about Camp Mishewah? The answer is simple: Because God is present! We invite Him to move freely, and everything we do is for His purposes. This camp isn’t ours; it belongs to God. For more than 50 years—and even before that under its previous owners—Mishewah has been a place where God is welcomed to dwell. Mrs. Middleton, who sold the camp to the Missionary Church Canada East District in 1972, had a heart for it to continue as a “soul-saving station.” That vision remains strong, and as we hold to this purpose, lives will continue to be transformed. What a privilege it is to be part of this amazing ministry!

### Some Highlights from 2024

- 765 people attended over the 4 weeks of family camp
- 165 campers from ages 8-18 attended one of the youth camp weeks
- 18 seasonal site trailer owners enjoyed the camp from May to September, contributing to the life of the camp in various ways
- 24 seasonal staff team members poured their hearts and souls into the camp over the summer
- 7 people were baptized during one of the weeks of family camp
- 15,000 meals were served in the kitchen during programmed weeks of camp
- 18 volunteers on a work team from Bethany Community Church and Bethel EMC installed a large garage door and 4 new man doors on the chapel, making it much more functional for winter storage
- 7 volunteers on a work team from Wilmot Centre EMC renovated a cabin, drastically improving its look and appeal
- 44 counsellors volunteered for youth camps
- 60+ volunteers gave of their time and talents to fill a multitude of roles and complete various jobs from May to September
- 16 men were in attendance for the fall bikers weekend retreat
- 4 new trees were planted around the camp
- 5 shrubs were planted along the creek bank to help prevent erosion
- 1 path started to be cleared through the bush for future hiking and activities



The vision of Evergreen Christian Ministries is that **everyone who comes in contact with our camps would be impacted by the life-changing love of Jesus**. And our mission is **that with the support of our church partners, we provide opportunities to Experience Jesus, Experience Community, Experience Renewal, and Experience Creation**. These are important goals, and we are very thankful that we work alongside so many wonderful people who share the vision and mission with us. Together we serve, so that Mishewah continues to impact the lives of many individuals, families, children, and youth. Thank you for partnering with us.

Jeanette & Steve Balzer  
Managing Directors



## Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre

P.O. Box 39, Cremona, AB, Canada T0M 0R0

403-637-2766 (office) [www.riversedgencamp.org](http://www.riversedgencamp.org)

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### 2023 - 2024 Year End Review

As I reflect over the past year, we can say that God's presence has been not only known, but felt in some remarkable ways.

In February 2024, the Board met and prayed about where they sensed Father's leading. From that retreat, came a renewed vision and mission for Rivers Edge.

**Our vision:** "Immersed in the pursuit of God, to love others and to build His kingdom everywhere."

**Our mission:** "We exist to create an environment that inspires people to experience Jesus-centred transformation."

**Our values:** Jesus, Community, and Fun

Everything that we do here at Rivers Edge is done with our vision and mission as the primary focus. Any renovations or projects or programming is done with this in mind. When I first came to Rivers Edge in 2021, approximately 60% of our retreat revenues were public schools and groups, with the remaining 40% made up of faith-based organizations. It felt like we had lost our focus of why we existed as a camp, to be an extension of our church community. We want Rivers Edge to be a place where churches can do things in a beautiful environment that they might not be able to achieve in their churches.

Our partner churches gave us feedback that they weren't able to get retreats at camp. In response, we changed the way we did retreats, with a goal of only permitting 1 out of 4 weekends/month to be non faith-based organizations. We reserve the other 3 weekends/month for churches / faith-based retreats, up until 6 weeks prior to the weekend.

For our 2023-2024 fiscal year-end, I am thrilled to share that approximately 60% of our retreat revenues were churches and other faith-based organizations, with the remaining 40% comprised of Catholic and public school groups, family reunions, quilting and crafting organizations and other events that bless the community.

We still have some work to do in building relationships with our community, both our church community and the local community and county partners. We are striving towards excellence in this area.



## **Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre**

P.O. Box 39, Cremona, AB, Canada T0M 0R0

403-637-2766 (office) [www.riversedgencamp.org](http://www.riversedgencamp.org)

As we look forward to 2025 and beyond, we are excited to see what Father is going to do in and through Rivers Edge. At the Country Christmas Fundraising supper, Father brought in almost \$100,000. This will enable us to complete several projects at camp, including renovating the front office area to better serve our guests (completed January 2025), finishing the wall in the chapel for a staff lounge and nursery (in process - February 2025), building a wall in the cafe to open the cafe to the public (in process - February 2025), creating better sound absorption in the frontier hall and making camp more accessible.

Lord willing, our long-term goal is to build an addition to the inn that would be fully-accessible and create space for families with disabilities, in addition to hosting marriage retreats, etc. As this will take several years, in the short-term, we are planning to create 2 rooms that are accessible for individuals and families that experience accessibility challenges. We recognize that this is only a start, but we need to start! Pray for us as we endeavor to make camp more accessible. Lord willing, this will be completed before the 2025 Summer Camp Season.

We are thankful to each one who has partnered with us and invested in our vision, mission and values; whether through prayer, volunteering time or through financial support. We are thankful to be a partner of the EMCC, and look forward to continued and new partnerships within the EMCC family.

Continue to pray for us to have the needed wisdom to fulfil the calling that He has for us, and for Father to continue to provide the needed resources.

Because of Christ,

Andrew

Andrew Fitch

Executive Director - Rivers Edge

# Stayner Camp

## Director's Report



### Spring 2025 Update

Celebrating 100 Years:	2025 marks 100 years of Christian Camping at Stayner Camp and Christian Retreat Centre! We are incredibly excited to celebrate what God has done over the last 100 years under the towering pine trees and wait in anticipation for what He will do in the next 100 years. August 1-4 <sup>th</sup> is our Anniversary Celebration including a Pitch 'n Praise Reunion, a Family Festival, concert by NewWorldSon, and so many awesome opportunities to make new memories.
Adult Programming:	<p>In 2023 we launched our first ever Ladies Spring Retreat and hosted over 100 ladies. It was such a great success that we are currently planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual retreat on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Because of this success, we are launching a similar Men's Retreat in June. We continue to work with OASIS for our "older adults" weeklong camp in June with anywhere from 30-100 55+s attending.</p> <p>Although our facility is booked by many private interest groups, we continue to grow our market in hosting church retreats.</p>
Youth Programming:	<p>During the summer we have the opportunity of hosting 3 weeks of Day Camps. Each camp has an attendance of 30-70 students from our surrounding communities. We have had many campers come to know the life changing love of God, and several are now participating in local churches in our area.</p> <p>In 2023 we relaunched "Reboot" a junior high retreat. With over 100 youth and 30 leaders (plus volunteers) we have created a weekend for students to disconnect from their normal grind and plug in to God.</p>
New to 2025:	<p>LEADERSHIP IN TRAINING CAMP – This is our first year offering overnight camp since 2019.</p> <p>MARCH BREAK CAMP – We have created a new week of camp to help meet the needs of our community during March.</p> <p>WARMING CENTRE (Pilot project) – In January and February we opened our doors during the day, once a week, to welcome those from the community who needed a warm place of comfort, a hot lunch, and even a shower with clean linens if needed.</p> <p>MAY CAMP FAMILY CAMP – To Kick off the 100<sup>th</sup> Season of Camping we are creating a "Mini Family Camp" – filling a need in our camping community.</p>
Physical Changes:	We are in the process of updating and renovating small cabin buildings on the campground. Several buildings are nearing the 75yr + mark and need full renovations and updating. We have renovated 3 cabins and are continuing to work on our Guest House and Cottage.
Prayer Requests:	Please keep us in your prayers. Pray for our permanent staff that they will continue to seek God for guidance on day-to-day tasks. Pray for our seasonal staff and volunteers, that they will see that their work is for God's Kingdom. Pray for those who visit Stayner Camp, that they may find rest, be rejuvenated, and feel restored in God's presence.



# Charis Camp & Conference Centre

Respectfully submitted by Darren Duncalfe, Executive Director  
2024

We have a lot to be thankful for this year at Charis Camp. This summer, we hosted the most campers in our history (nearly a thousand), and we had the most staff and volunteers ever, with over a hundred and twenty involved. We have established a discipleship community of five young adults living on site with a number of others closely connected. Our staff level has returned to a healthy level to support the work that takes place here at Charis Camp. We have seen large improvements made to the downstairs of the dining hall and the Tabernacle as well. We have also had a great year connecting to guest groups (over three hundred groups and nearly fifteen thousand people). Our partnerships with organizations like Unity Christian School and Team Rubicon continue to be healthy and mutually beneficial. This year, we reached a new level of partnership with Evergreen Camp to produce a new Camp called Roots and Rings and both parties were very happy with what came from this connection and have agreed to move forward into the future together. Our cedar and Moss Coffee shop has become a key connecting point for our neighbourhood and, more recently, a popular destination for tourists from all over.

Looking to the future, we have a number of needs to be met in order to serve the needs of our community.

## **What are the needs?**

### Maintenance needs:

- a new HVAC system for the dining hall
- a HVAC system for the Tabernacle
- washrooms for the Tabernacle

### Discipleship community needs

- a common space to meet together
- asbestos removal to accommodate the above
- furniture

### Future Improvement needs

- tent bases for our wall tents
- a larger dining hall
- room for more campers, staff and guests
- permanent indoor seating for Cedar & Moss coffee.
- more indoor play space
- replacement of mattresses in the Lodge
- playground replacement



3. What does meeting those needs lead to?

A better experience for campers

A Better experience for guest groups

### **What are the obstacles to meeting the above needs?**

Everything has gone up in price:

- food costs
- minimum wage
- heating and electricity

We are still recovering from two years of lost revenue during the pandemic

Shrinking groups

- many people are struggling with inflation
- churches are still recovering from the pandemic

Other factors

- the fire at Cross connection church in Chilliwack and the resulting difficult time since has had a tremendous impact, as they are our most supportive church ( their loss hurts us as well)
- having to subsidize our camps each year in order to keep them affordable

In an effort to move forward, we continue to fundraise in order to make these things happen. We are working on this in a number of ways, including:

- Canada Helps giving platform
- one-time gifts
- monthly giving
- volunteering
- wills and estates
- people giving to meet specific needs

Our goal remains the same: to keep Charis Camp affordable and accessible, that many will meet Jesus here.

**THANK YOU**  
**2025**



EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY  
CHURCH OF CANADA